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Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith the special communiqué on cooperation on migration issues, which was adopted at the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Special communiqué on cooperation on migration issues

[Original: English and Spanish]

We, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean:

Highlight the solid historical and cultural ties that have always characterized the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, along with the consensus that exists among their Governments regarding the importance of the migration issue to the region's countries and the positive contribution made by migratory flows in both directions.

Demand the effective enjoyment and protection of the human rights in the countries of origin, transit and destination of all migrants and their families, particularly children and women, regardless of their migration status, as established by international law.

We also note that the poverty created by, among other reasons, an inequitable international order with vast economic, social and developmental differences, is one of the root causes of migration. We therefore assume the responsibility and commitment to create in our countries conditions that encourage our populations to remain there, so that migration can be an option and not a necessity, and discourage brain drain.

We acknowledge the importance of the economic, social and cultural contributions made by migrants to the development of their home and host societies and of their communities. Consequently, we understand that the migration issue must be addressed in accordance with the principle of joint but differentiated responsibility among countries of origin and destination countries, giving consideration to its structural causes and their effects.

We thus agree on the need to strengthen migratory policies and practices that will ensure the respect of the fundamental rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, as an informed and safe management of migratory flows. Those migratory policies and practices will also contribute, among other issues, to facilitate remittances and the dignified voluntary return of migrants.

We also recognize the need to promote mechanisms to facilitate the integration and the reunification of the migrants' families in accordance with national legislation and to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

At the same time, we highlight the promotion of the active involvement of migrants established outside the region in the development of their communities of origin, through the creation of migrant community networks and associations, in contributing to innovation, technology, social development and participation.

Bearing in mind the need to step up the exchange of best practices between countries of origin and destination of migrants, we call for an even more strengthened dialogue, reciprocal understanding, the exchange of best practices, cooperation, knowledge transfer, identification of common challenges, and promotion of voluntary return programmes. Likewise, we call to promote a coordinated regional position in all the multilateral forums in order to achieve substantial and tangible results in all the matters that the migration phenomenon entails.

We recognize the need to implement gender-sensitive national and regional migration policies, in the light of the situation of particular vulnerability faced by women and girl migrants.

We underscore the need to promote coordinated actions by the Latin American and Caribbean Governments, in order to address, combat and punish, with all the force of the law, and based on the international conventions on the matter and national legislations, the illicit smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human lives in countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants. Also, to strengthen the consular networks of our countries to improve and expand the consular attention, protection and assistance of our migrants.

We emphasize particular attention for migrant communities that reside beyond the region, seeking to establish working agendas with all destination countries of our migrants.

We therefore underscore our bi-regional dialogue with the European Union, we express our support for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean-European Union Migration Dialogue established in the framework of the Declaration of the Fifth Summit, held in Lima in 2008.

We are also resolved to progress with the development of regional cooperation programmes on migration and to develop efforts to coordinate positions towards the Fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Mexico in 2010.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico
23 February 2010